

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 30 were previously pending in this application.

Claims 1-15 and 30 stand rejected.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claims 1-7, 13-15, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

Claims 8-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1, 3-7, 12 and 30 are amended.

No new matter is added.

Claims 1-15 and 30 remain in the case.

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

Objection to Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification. The Examiner has argued that the specification fails to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter.

In particular, the Examiner states that claim 12, which recites, “the height of the first plugs is equal to or less than the height of the pad,” is not supported in the specification.

Claim 12 is amended to recite, “the height of the first plugs is equal to or greater than the height of the pad,” to correct an editorial error. This is supported, for example, in the specification at page 9, lines 21-22 and FIG. 3A. In this respect, the language, at specification at page 4, line 10, i.e., “no greater lower than” is also replaced with “equal to or greater than.”

Further, the Examiner has argued that claim 10, which recites, “the pitch of the connector is twice the pitch of the global bit lines,” is not supported in the specification.

Applicant, however, respectfully submits that claim 10 is supported in the specification, for example, at page 4, lines 7-9, which states that “If the pitch of the global bit lines is equal to the pitch of the connector, the height of the second plug is 2 - 4 times the height of the pad. If the pitch of the connector is twice the pitch of the global bit lines, the height of the second plugs is four times the height of the pad.”

Along this line, claim 8, which depends from claim 7, and claim 10, which also depends from claim 7, are not contradictory, but just claim different embodiments of the claimed invention.

Claim objections

Claim 1 is objected to. Claim 1 is amended to recite, “contact” instead of “contacts” to correct a typographical error. The objection is now overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 9 recites the limitation “second plug” in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 9 depends on claim 8, which in turn depends on claim 7. Claim 7, however, has a proper antecedent basis for the above discussed limitation. See line 22 of claim 7.

Thus, the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 112 is improper.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-7, 13-15, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. Application Publication 2001/0005624 issued to Aoyagi et al., (“Aoyagi et al”).

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the official action at page 4, the Examiner has argued that “Aoyagi teaches at least one plug (16, 28)...and a pad 34 formed in the upper portion of the second insulating layer.”

Applicant does not necessarily acquiesce in the Examiner’s specific analysis of U.S. Pat. Application Publication 2001/0005624. Nonetheless, to facilitate the allowance of this case, claim 1 is amended to recite, “the pad having an upper width is directly formed on the at least one plug.”

In contrast, in Aoyagi, a pad 34 is formed on the wire 27, *not* directly formed on the plugs, e.g., a plug 28. (The element 16 is a via hole, not a plug.)

Nowhere does Aoyagi teach or disclose the above limitations recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Aoyagi does not teach all of the limitations of claim 1.

For these reasons, Aoyagi does not anticipate claim 1. In addition, claims 2-6, which depend from claim 1 and recite features that are neither taught nor disclosed in the cited references, are also allowable.

Similarly, claims 7 and 30 are amended to recite limitations similar to claim 1. Therefore, for the reasons discussed above, claims 7 and 30 also are allowable. In addition, claims 13-15, which depend from claim 7 and recite features that are neither taught nor disclosed in the cited references, are allowable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over (U.S. 2001/0005624) Aoyagi et al., ("Aoyagi et al.").

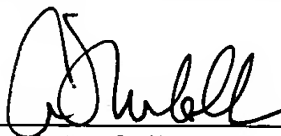
The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Thus, the cited references, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 7. Accordingly, the rejection does not present a *prima facie* case of obviousness as to claims 8-12, which depend from claim 7. Thus, the rejection of claims 8-12 under 35 U.S.C 103 is improper. Therefore, claims 8-12 are allowable.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-15 and 30 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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